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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/642,877	08/18/2003	Christian Wamprecht	Mo6800N/LeA 34,848N	3372

34947 7590 06/12/2006

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EXAMINER

NILAND, PATRICK DENNIS

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1714

DATE MAILED: 06/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/642,877

Applicant(s)

WAMPRECHT ET AL.

Examiner

Patrick D. Niland

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2006.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23-26 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 23-26 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

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1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/24/06 has been entered.

Claims 23-26 are pending.

The terminal disclaimer of 5/24/06 has been approved.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 96/30425 Martz et al..

Martz et al. discloses aqueous polyurethane emulsifiers which are the reaction product of polyether polyols, polyisocyanates, diamines (page 4, lines 22-25 noting "and combinations thereof" and page 5, lines 11-17), and alcohols falling within the scope of the instantly claimed component B (page 4, line 27) of claims 8, 19-21 and 23. Where the polyether polyol of Martz has 3 or more OH groups (page 4, lines 14-15), it reads on component A of the instant claims 23-26 because statistically, two of these polyether polyols will be joined by a diisocyanate during the reaction of the diisocyanate of Martz with the triols of Martz and this reaction does not occur instantly. Therefore, at some point in the reaction, the required amount of triol, of the instant

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claims, will have reacted with diisocyanate and the subsequent reaction will be the remaining reaction of the instant claims to give the final polyurethane of the reference and the instant claims. This creates a tetrol polyurethane polyether moiety in combination with unreacted polyether triol during the polyurethane formation of Martz as an intermediate product which exists for a finite period of time and which falls within the scope of the instantly claimed component A. These polyether triols and polyether urethane tetrols can be imagined to be hydrolyzed from the final polyurethane in any proportion including those newly added to the instant claims 23-26. The newly recited limitations therefore do not overcome this rejection. Thus, Martz encompasses the instantly claimed component A being within the final polyurethane, which is the subject of the instant claims. Page 2, line 28 to page 3, line 8 falls within the scope of the instantly claimed starting NCO/OH ratio. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to use the above discussed combinations of ingredients in the polyurethane of Martz because they are encompassed by Martz and would have been expected to give the properties of the polyurethane of Martz to the final paint compositions. See the entire document.

For the above reasons, the applicant's amendment does not overcome this rejection and the applicant's argument are not persuasive.

4. Claims 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat. No. 5023309 Kruse et al..

Kruse et al. discloses aqueous polyurethane thickeners which are the reaction product of polyether polyols, polyisocyanates, diamines (column 8, lines 40-46), and alcohols falling within the scope of the instantly claimed component B (column 10, line 34 et seq and column 11,

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lines 1-4) of claims 23-26. Where the polyether polyol of Kruse has 3 or more OH groups (column 5, lines 38-68 and column 6, lines 1-5), it reads on component a1 of the instant claims 23-26. Statistically, two of these polyether polyols will be joined by a diisocyanate during the reaction to form the final polyurethane of the reference. This reaction does not occur instantaneously. At some point in the reaction, this creates a tetrol polyurethane polyether moiety in combination with unreacted polyether triol in the amounts of the instant claims which subsequently react further to place these moieties within the final polyurethane of Kruse, which if hydrolyzed from the polyurethane of Kruse would read on the instantly claimed component a2. These polyether triols and polyether urethane tetrols will be present for a finite period of time during the reaction period used to form the final polyurethane in any proportion including those newly added to the instant claims 23-26. The newly recited limitations therefore do not overcome this rejection. Thus, Kruse encompasses the instantly claimed component A being within the final polyurethane, which is the subject of the instant claims. Column 5, lines 38-43, column 6, lines 40-46, and column 10, lines 25-37 falls within the scope of the instantly claimed starting NCO/OH ratio. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to use the above discussed combinations of ingredients in the polyurethane of Kruse because they are encompassed by Kruse and would have been expected to give the properties of the polyurethane of Kruse to the final compositions of column 15, lines 49-55.


For the above reasons, the applicant's amendment does not overcome this rejection and the applicant's argument are not persuasive.

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick D. Niland whose telephone number is 571-272-1121. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 10 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan, can be reached on 571-272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Patrick D. Niland
Primary Examiner
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